

Message Text

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15

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 /091 W

----- 047886

R 191433Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7804

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 0700

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR ET SO

SUBJ: EGYPTIAN VP'S TALKSIN ADDIS AND MOGADISCIO

1. EGYPTIAN EMBOFF INFORMS US THAT EGYPTIAN VP MOBARA MET WITH PMAC CHAIRMAN TEFERI BANTE AND FONMIN FOLLOWING OAU SUMMIT. SUBJECT OF TALKS WAS "BILATERAL RELATIONS". DURING COURSE OF CONVERSATION BOTH TEFERI AND FONMIN STATED THAT SOMALIA HAD BEGUN MAKING PREPARATIONS TO ATTACK ETHIOPIA. ETHIOPIANS CLAIMED TO HAVE INFO THAT TIMETABLE FOR ATTACK WAS DEFINITELY SET AND THEN TEMPORARILY POSTPONED TO AWAIT FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN ETHIOPIA. ETHIOPIANS, APPARENTLY INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME UNTIL SOMALIA ATTACKED AND ETHIOPIAN WAS PREPARING ACCORDINGLY. (GENERALLY RELIABLE SOURCE HAS IT FROM HIGH-RANKING DIRG MEMBERS THAT PMAC BELIEVES SOMALI ATTACK WILL COME IN TWO MONTHS. SOURCE STATED THAT ETHIOPIANS PREPARING TO MEET ATTACK AND CALL-UP OF SOME 6,000 RETIRED VETS WAS FOR THIS PURPOSE).

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2. EGYPTIAN VP REPORTEDLY WENT TO MOGADISCIO FROM ADDIS

AND INTENDED TO DISCUSS, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE FUTURE OF
TFAI. EGYPTIAN DEL REPORTEDLY WILL URGE, IN RESPONSE
TO FRENCH PRESIDENT GISCARD'S REQUEST, THAT SOMALIS
NOT INTEFERE WITH INDEPENDENT TFAI AND MAKE KNOWN THE
FACT THAT EGYPT DOES NOT SUPPORT SOMALI CLAIMS TO THE
TERRITORY.

COMMENT: THE "IMMINENT SOMALI ATTACK" THEME HAS APPARENTLY
BEEN REVIVED BY THE EPMG AFTER DORMANT PERIOD OF SEVERAL
MONTHS. SOMALI SUPPORT OF SPREADING INSURGENCIES IN BORDER
AREAS HAS NO DOUBT HAD AN EFFECT IN REKINDLING LONG-STANDING
ETHIOPIAN FEARS OF CROSS-BORDER ATTACK. WE HAVE NO RPT NO
INDICATIONS OF INCREASED LIKELIHOOD OF SOMALI ATTACK.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONSCRIPTION, BOUNDARY CLAIMS, TFAI, LIMITED WAR
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ADDIS00700
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760020-0711
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760146/aaaabogj.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <13 AUG 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EGYPTIAN VP'S TALKSIN ADDIS AND MOGADISCIO
TAGS: PFOR, ET, SO, EG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006